

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /081 W
-----005638 300941Z/13

R 291500Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9818
INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY BONN
USUN NY 319

CONFIDENTIAL COTONOU 1073

DEPT PLEASE REPEAT INFO TO OAU COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UN, US, SF, DM, WA
SUBJECT: BRIEFING BENINESE ON NAMIBIA

REF: A. COTONOU 1047 (NOTAL), B. STATE 142381, C. STATE 144740
(NOTAL)

1. SINCE FRENCH AMBASSADOR MEADMORE WAS UNDER STRICT INSTRUCTIONS TO
MAKE NAMIBIA DEMARCHE TO GOVERNMENT OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BENIN
(GPRB), HE ARRANGED JOINT MEETING FOR HIMSELF, GERMAN
AMBASSADOR HELDT, AND ME WITH BENINESE FOREIGN MINISTER
ALLADAYE JUNE 28. AFTER FRENCH AMBASSADOR CAREFULLY READ OFF
TALKING POINTS CONTAINED REF B, HE ASKED FOR FOREIGN
MINISTER'S COMMENTS, STRESSING THAT DEMARCHE WAS BEING
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MADE STRICTLY FOR PURPOSE OF KEEPING AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS
INFORMED OF EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT NAMIBIA'S INDEPENDENCE
WITHOUT RESPETING TO VIOLENCE. FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO HAD
TAKEN NOTES THROUGHOUT BRIEFING, RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD TRANSMIT
MAIN POINTS OF BRIEFING TO HIS GOVERNMENT. SPEAKING PERSONALLY,
HE THANKED REPRESENTATIVES OF THREE GOVERNMENTS FOR TAKING TIME
TO BRIEF HIM, ADDING THAT BENIN DID NOT FEEL THAT IT COULD

SPEAK FOR NAMIBIA. HE STRESSED THAT NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE MUST BE DETERMINED SOLELY ACCORDING TO THE WISHES OF THE NAMIBIAN PEOPLE. IF THEY OPTED FOR A SOLUTION SUCH AS THAT PROPOSED BY THE CONTACT GROUP, BENIN WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION. IF, HOWEVER, NAMIBIAN PEOPLE REJECTED THIS APPROACH, BENIN WOULD BE OBLIGED TO RESPECT THEIR WISHES.

2. COMMENT: SINCE ALLADAYE DISLIKES ANY UNNECESSARY DISCUSSION OF CONTENTIOUS ISSUES, HE COULD HAVE BEEN EXPECTED TO RESPOND IN THIS FASHION. HIS WORDS SHOULD NOT, HOWEVER, SUGGEST THAT BENIN IS MODERATING ITS SUPPORT FOR SWAPO, SINCE IT HAS ALREADY PUBLICLY AND FREQUENTLY COMMITTED ITSELF TO THE SWAPO INDEPENDENCE FORMULA.

THOMPSON

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 29-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Reason:
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